

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 100891
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:MKBERRY:SO
APPROVED BY NEA/PAB - JANE A. COON
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R 192335Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 100891

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINS, PK, US

SUBJECT:MAYOR LINDSEY REQUESTS INFO ON BHUTTO TRIAL DOCUMENTS -

1. FORMER NEW YORK MAYOR JOHN LINDSEY TELEPHONED NEA/PAB ON APRIL 19 TO ADVISE HE HAD AGREED TO BECOME HEAD OF A COMMITTEE TO ASSIST IN EX-PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S LEGAL DEFENSE "IF BHUTTO DESIRED AND IF PUBLICITY WOULD NOT DAMAGE CASE." SAID HE HAD KNOWN BHUTTO PERSONALLY BOTH IN NEW YORK AND ON VISIT TO PAKISTAN AND WISHED TO DO WHATEVER HE COULD.

2. LINDSEY SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED CASE RECENTLY WITH DE FACTO FOREIGN MINISTER AGHA SHAHI DURING UN VISIT. SHAHI STRESSED THAT COMMITTEE NEED NOT FEAR "PRECIPITATE ACTION SUCH AS MIDNIGHT EXECUTION" BECAUSE CASE WAS IN HANDS OF INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY. SHAHI ALSO EXPRESSED OPINION THAT ACTIVITIES OF U.S. COMMITTEE MIGHT BE PERCEIVED AS UNWARRANTED INVOLVEMENT IN PAKISTAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

3. MAIN PURPOSE OF LINDSEY CALL WAS TO INQUIRE ABOUT
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REPORT THAT COMMITTEE HAD HEARD THAT GOP HAD PLACED RESTRICTION ON TRIAL DOCUMENTS BEING SHIPPED OUTSIDE COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH MOST OF LEGAL MATERIAL WOULD BE SUPERFLUOUS, HE WANTS TO OBTAIN "PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE BRIEFS FILED BY EACH SIDE." REQUEST EMBASSY ADVISE WHETHER THESE BRIEFS ARE IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND WHETHER THERE IS RESTRICTION ON EXPORT. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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